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Ampallang rocks at Battle of the Bands

By PETER GARNER
Staff Writer

The 2002 Battle of the Bands showcased the talents of many Niagara College students at After Hours pub on March 19.

Ampallang, an aggressive rock quartet, whose obvious influences include Rage Against The Machine, received the first place prize of $500 to record a demo and continue on to the next round of the countrywide Battle of the Bands series.

Tin Cup Saloon, a jam band with catchy melodies and fantastic instrumentation, won second place, and a very aggressive Sons of Eve finished third.

Eleven bands played at the Battle of the Bands, and more than half were aggressive rock acts.

"It seems like they are just trying to outplay each other," said Matt Pearson, 22, of St. Catharines, a friend of one of the bands' members. "No one else has a chance. It's a night of testosterone."

Mint delivered an a capella performance after their band quit just before the competition began.

According to some people in attendance, bands that tried to play against the norm were shunned.

Several people, including After Hours manager David Rapleje, mocked one act, Vitamin Evil, incessantly.

"Music lessons, anyone?" is what Rapelje asked after the band wrapped up its set, and one front row attendee yelled derogatory remarks towards the lead singer.

"I can't believe the maturity of some of these people here," said Sean Anderson, 22, of Vineland, Ont.

"In a night that seemed to run smoothly, I don't know why Dave Rapelje would make such an irrelevant comment,"said Tasha Enns, 21, of Welland.

Many people appeared to not really care about the show. Seven people at the table in the front row were playing cards for most of the show, and constant chatter took away from the tamer acts.

"OK, so not every band is going to be everybody's cup of tea, but show some respect," said Shannon Riley, 19, of St. Catharines. "It must take a lot of guts to get up in front of hundreds of people. I admire everyone that performed tonight."

There was a brief intermission in which hip-hop artist K-OS performed four songs along with his guitar player Ross King, including a rendition of The Beatles' hit *Yesterday* and his new hit single *Heaven Only Knows* from his debut album **Exit**.

Last year's duo, Levee, returned this year as a full six-piece band. Singer Richelle Gratton, 21, of Mount Forest, Ont., received a huge ovation after every song.

The next round of the Battle of the Bands takes place at After Hours on April 3, hosting bands from Brock University in St. Catharines, the University of Western Ontario in London, McMaster University in Hamilton, and Niagara College among others. The winner of that will go on to represent the region in Toronto at Lee's Palace on a date yet to be determined.

Ampallang, this year's winner of the Niagara College Battle of the Bands at After Hours Pub, perform one of the songs that got them the top prize.

Photo by Christina Colli

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OUR FINAL EDITION

This is the last edition of the *Niagara News* for the Journalism-Print program's second-year students.

Our next edition, on April 5, will be published by the first-year students.

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Media Matters

PR graduates share their success stories with students

By RICHELLE GRATTON
Staff Writer

Students in Niagara College's Public Relations (Post-graduate) program received advice on how to build a successful career from two program graduates.

On March 14, Jeff Vallentin, the director of the public relations and communications department at Hamilton Health Sciences, came to speak to the students.

Being "new professionals we are here to share our experiences and to advise you where to go from here," said Vallentin. Vallentin graduated from the program in 1996.

Joining him was Jennifer Hutton, who graduated from the program in 2001.

She started as the co-ordinator of the public relations and communications department at Hamilton Health Sciences. Hutton then quickly moved up into a new role in internal communications and now specializes in media relations.

"Hard work, initiative, dedication and a good sense of humour can take you a long way," Hutton said.

Vallentin and Hutton, both of Hamilton, Ont., showed the students a visual presentation including "a day in the life" photo essay, that was a "morale booster for the hospitals," said Vallentin. The photos, by four photographers from the community, showed the daily life of the staff from the organization's three acute care hospitals and one long-term care hospital.

They wanted "to let people know what happens inside the hospital," said Vallentin. It was a "caring presentation of our hospitals."

Nancy Geddie, co-ordinator of the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program, said the most "effective" part of the presentation was the succinct script: "10,000 people come to work, to make it better."

Vallentin showed another visual presentation of the medical staff's and administration's handling of public information about a mystery virus at the Henderson Hospital in Hamilton.

On Feb. 5, 2001, the hospital received a patient who had a viral haemorrhagic fever.

Vallentin received a call in the morning from Dr. Mark Loeb, an infectious disease specialist. He told Vallentin to go to the hospital immediately because "this might be Ebola," said Loeb. Ebola swiftly kills its victims as they bleed uncontrollably.

The hospital's staff had concerns about the patient and about themselves being infected by this highly contagious airborne disease.

Vallentin explained to the students the strategies he and his public relations team used to handle the media and the community who were demanding answers.

Jennifer Hutton (left) and Jeff Vallentin (right) spoke to the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program students. Also in the photo is student, Robyn Mattina, 24, of Hamilton, who will be interning at HHS for four weeks in April.

Photo by Richelle Gratton

"When public health is at risk, we have to gain the community's trust by reassuring people. We were careful not to use the word Ebola," said Vallentin.

He said it was a difficult task to "take control of the environment," while working with the demanding press and trying to balance the two major issues: "a possible outbreak," and "respecting a sick woman in the middle of all of this."

Vallentin said his job is "fabulously challenging. We have to communicate in so many different ways," because different audiences have different demands and concerns.

Decades prove top-notch graduates work for CTV

By CASSANDRA SCAPILLATI
Staff Writer

Second-year broadcast students, touring CTV, one of the leading television news station facilities in Canada, got a first-hand look at potential employment opportunities in the network operations division.

According to David Hunter, CTV's vice-president of operations, Niagara College has provided the network with top-notch candidates over the last couple of decades.

Niagara's three-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program offers students a wide variety of experience in all areas of production.

Ian Slack, assistant news director of CFTO News, is a former Niagara student in the BRTF program. He says his technical training at Niagara helped boost his career. After graduating in 1977, he came to CFTO in 1978.

"The key is to get business ready when you get out of Niagara," he advised the students, adding, they need to use the opportunity they have to succeed.

As assistant news director, Slack is involved in a great deal of discussion and gets to decide top stories. He says there are four or five people who decide the lead for the news. They have been working with each other for 25 years.

"You really have to please the public, keep their interest." There have been two or three times when he's regretted the top lead story he chose.

"It's very rarely we screw up." Slack says the lead is extremely important, especially for the 6 o'clock nightly news. "This is the toughest news market there is (the Toronto market). There's a lot of competitors."

"The business is so small that you're interchanging (jobs)." Three people who were once his bosses are applying to him. "You have to be very respectful to everyone you're working with. You may see them or work with them again."

As the students' tour proceeded to a working newsroom, Slack explained how CTV has "owned the Niagara Peninsula for many years." He says, when there's a big story "they know we're going to cover it." He emphasized that this is the station's "duty to the viewers."

Second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film students in the CTV news studio.

Photo by Cassandra Scapillati

He says CTV local news is recognized as the leading news and information source for delivering local news to Canadians from coast to coast. Viewers look to CTV local news for the issues that affect them and their community on a daily basis. CTV says, on top of the local, national, and international news, their local news is the place to turn for sports, weather, consumer, health, entertainment, political news, informative serials, and in-depth investigative reports tailored to each community served. CFTO-TV has the number 1 ranked noon hour, early, and late local newscasts. With an average audience of 421,000, CFTO news at six is Canada's most-watched local newscast.

Slack says CTV's newsroom interaction is strong and still in the market despite competition. Last year, CTV was the number 1 station in Canada.

"Sept. 11 has brought a lot of people back to the news and the importance of it," he says, adding, the journalists at CTV "work very hard to own a story."

As the tour continued to the studio, the news anchors were preparing for a live broadcast of the noon news.

Steve Jacobs, who details the weather, gave advice to the students. "Expect shift work. It's a 24-hour operation. Although it's fun, it's a lot of work. Every day is different. Shift work is an inherent part of the business."

Slack adds that noon is a "crazy time." This is a time when stories may continue to change." Sometimes stories aren't ready, he explains, and the news anchors are on the phone with the control room specifying details.

Minutes after he said this, a breaking news story reached the control room. As news anchor Tim Weber was reading his script, a paper was handed to him on camera and he immediately had to announce a breaking top news story. It was new information that the Canadian Olympic figure skaters, Jamie Salé and David Pelletier, would be awarded a gold medal for their performance at the Olympics. Even though the situation looked very chaotic behind the scenes, the "key is to get the story in," says Slack. That's what they did.

He says this is why CTV is respected. They are on top of the leading stories. Their dedication to the news is what puts them among the Top 10 stations every day. "To be in the Top 10 every day is amazing."

Recently, CTV was recognized for its solid relationship with Niagara College in an article written for Broadcast Dialogue Magazine. Representatives from CTV explained why they continue to look to Niagara when they are recruiting new students in their "high-pressure" television network operations division.

Harold Wesley, director of on-air operations at CTV, stressed the importance of recognizing "top-notch" candidates for the job.

CTV has a great success rate with Niagara College. Forty per cent of all CTV on-air operations staff are from the college, and 80 per cent of the employees at Sportsnet, which is owned by CTV, come from the college's program.

The BRTF students' tour explored the inside of numerous *master control rooms, and Wesley* gave them the lowdown on how important it is for the technical directors (TDs) to not make mistakes. Altogether, 24 channels leave the complex and one TD is needed per three channels.

Wesley says the skills and experience are stressed because the job is so complex. The students have to be ready to perform. Wesley says, "Everybody else can make mistakes but not the TDs." Their mistakes are the ones that are shown on tape to the viewers and this can make the station look bad. "They are the last line of defence."

"What makes me look good are those people," he says, as he points to the TDs at work.

All aspects of television are directed in the master control rooms, everything from news to sports and entertainment.

"It's amazing how complicated it is to get something to air to the viewers," says Wesley. His goal is to rotate the workers. They can take on all positions and levels of responsibility to find which area they excel in. Wesley says if they're good at what they do, they'll find a place.

The most important things he could tell the students are to have the right attitude, be willing to do what people want to be done and be a team player. He likes to see people advance but knows that to get anywhere within the company, they have to be able to prove it. If they have the desire to learn, Wesley will "gladly teach," although to get into this business, "you have to be able to think on your feet and be aggressive."

Wine Time

Proposed wine sales generates controversy

By SUSANNA ECKMIRE
Staff Writer

The double cohort of new students has created some intriguing developments in Niagara College's strategy for maintaining financial stability.

Since the province of Ontario has enacted restrictions on tuition increases and hasn't committed to an adequate increase of funding, the colleges are forced to seek "non-traditional" revenue sources.

In a presentation to the Board of Governors on Feb. 14, Niagara College Vice-President Corporate Services Steve Hudson announced plans to meet the significant financial needs of the college over the next five years.

Among other things, Hudson announced that the teaching winery at the college is making plans to distribute its products for sale in the region, and the greenhouses are considering expanding their business mandate in the local market. "We are pursuing a manufacturing licence to create the ability to distribute the wine that's out of there. Currently, once it's made, we have to pour it down the drain. Legally, you're not allowed to take it home. You're not allowed to sell it," said Hudson.

Selling the wine rather than pouring it out may seem like a no-brainer, but these plans are raising some controversies.

"Are we not, potentially, shall we say, disgruntling some of the hands that feed us?" said Peggy Davidson, board member, referring to the college's entering into a competitive relationship with local wineries who have until now been supportive of the college.

College President Dan Patterson doesn't think so. "The industry really embraces this," he says. "We've never in our history ever had any problems of people worried about competition." Patterson says the college's new business initiatives are directly related to the new mandate of the province challenging colleges to be more entrepreneurial.

"I think the point that Steve's (Hudson) making is that going forward we are going to try and make more money off of these things," said Davidson.

Hudson says the local wineries will benefit by the college's emergence into the commercial forum because tourists and consumers will be more prone to visit and purchase from other Niagara wineries. "It is different than trying to say 'All I want to do is maximize my profit.' We don't have that mandate, specifically, but at the same time I can make more money than pouring the wine down the drain which is my current out at the end of the day."

Davidson wasn't convinced. "If I were a greenhouse owner, I'd be a little ..." she said trailing off and being interrupted by Hudson, who maintained that as long as the competition the college provides is reasonable, at market rates, the greenhouse owners "don't care."

"We're always very sensitive to working with the industry sector to make sure they understand our plans ... that we understand any concerns that they have and that we try to evolve our business in support of that. So you certainly try to develop win-wins rather than straight head-to-head competition," said Hudson.

> *'Our primary role here is teaching. We're not setting up a business, per se.'*
> — *Jon Ogryzlo*

He said since the revenue generated would be used within the Niagara region, so local businesses wouldn't be concerned.

Conveniently, the recent audit of the teaching winery at the Glendale campus has been successful, allowing the process for Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) manufacturing licensing to proceed.

Steve Gill, co-ordinator of the Winery and Viticulture program, says this venture is aimed at creating a "self-sustaining" teaching winery. Only the second of its kind in North America, the winery, he says, gives students a "hands-on view" of the business.

"What we want to do is give the students the best educational experience ever," says Gill.

Jon Ogryzlo, director of the environment, horticulture and agribusiness division, agrees. "I don't think we're competing," he says. "We're not making money on these things; we're offsetting some of our costs." Ogryzlo says the sale of goods is a "by-product of the teaching activity." Since, he says, the college teaches applied skills, it is natural that the sale of items, even on a small scale, should occur.

"Our primary role here is teaching," says Ogryzlo. "We're not setting up a business, per se."

He says competition with local greenhouses is a non-issue. "They (local greenhouses) have supported us over the last 34 years. I don't think they are going to change that."

Ken Hernder, of Hernder Estate Wineries, says although he considers Niagara College's move to enter the selling business as competition, he "can't see any real negative drawbacks."

"You know what?" he says. "We can't get shelf space in the LCBO, so I don't know how you're going to."

The process, while underway, is far from complete. Hudson says the province will clarify the policies for community college involvement in arms-length enterprises some time in the fall.

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Students, staff and Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, had a chance to donate change to the Line of Dimes on March 11 at Niagara College's Welland campus. The event, held in conjunction with the Ontario March of Dimes, was organized by students in the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program: Hilary Taylor, 21, Heidi Morrison, 20, and Mike Barnett, 24. The donations placed on the tape on the ground are used to support such programs as befriending, assistive devices and design-ability, among others. Each year the organization helps more than 20,000 people.

Photo by Jennifer Phillips

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Motor Skills

Niagara College first to offer MOYAP

By ADAM BOGLE
Staff Writer

The Modified Youth Apprenticeship program (MOYAP) is looking good, a month after its inception.

Niagara College is the first community college in Ontario to provide a program like MOYAP.

In MOYAP, secondary school students can obtain their final three high school credits by going to co-op field placements for the first two days of a week.

For the final three days the students come to the college's Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the Welland campus. They're taught what they need to finish the first of three eight-week phases in the Automotive Service Technician Apprenticeship program.

This is delivered in collaboration with the two school boards in Niagara.

Greg Wheeler, of Niagara Falls, the program's co-ordinator, says the provincial ministry of Colleges, Universities and Training will be adding a $400 classroom fee to apprenticeship students' tuition. He says it's uncertain how this extra charge will affect MOYAP since the school board and the provincial government fund the program.

There are 20 students enrolled. Wheeler says the students' attendance and attitude are "good." Official feedback from the high schools won't be available until the end of April, however.

Wheeler says John Gilliam, the co-ordinator on the high school side, expects enrolment in the program to double next year.

Rob Wagner, 26, of Port Colborne, is a service technician at the college and part-time instructor for the MOYAP students. He teaches the students about brakes and helped run their orientation in February. "I think they're doing very well."

He says the MOYAP students are getting a jump on their training and the future of the program.

"I think it's a smart way to utilize that time ... It has good solid potential."

Wheeler says the future looks bright as well.

"It's an excellent initiative ... We're optimistic that it will produce excellent apprentices earlier in their life."

For the MOYAP students, the experience of going to college early is a new one. Joel Robataille, 19, is a student at Centennial Secondary School in Welland. He says he wants to be a diesel mechanic.

Modified Youth Apprenticeship Program students (left to right) B.J. Perzul, 18, of Niagara Falls, a Westlane Secondary School student; Les Butler, 17, of Ridgeway, a Lakeshore Catholic School student; James Wide, 17, of Grimsby, a Grimsby Secondary School student, and Darren Clarke, 19, of Fort Erie, a Fort Erie Secondary School student, work on a car in the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Photo by Adam Bogle

"The program has so much to offer ... I think it's an excellent choice for anyone that wants to get into transport repair."

Stephanie Rozon, 18, is a student at Thorold High School. She says she likes that MOYAP allows her to start her apprenticeship training a year early.

Rozon says the program teaches good theory and has practical applications that reinforce the information she's already learning.

"I think it's great if you get into it."

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Bowled Over

Inventor of fivepin bowling

By ERIK O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Thomas F. Ryan. Who is he to you? You may think he invented the bobsled, or developed the ice machine, or huntèd giant abominable snowmen — but you would be wrong, for Thomas F. Ryan has done nothing but kept Canadians out of the cold.

In 1909 Thomas F. "Tommy" Ryan, a Toronto billiard academy owner, invented the fivepins form of bowling, although bowling in other forms has been around for 7,000 years.

A professor of Egyptology at the University of London, Sir Flinders Petrie found the origins of bowling as a complete set of pins and balls, in a large tomb in Egypt dating back to 5200 BC.

Tenpin bowling had been reinvented in the U.S. in 1840, and finally came to Canada in the 1880s. It wasn't till 1905 that Ryan opened this country's first regulated tenpin lanes.

In the second storey of the Boisseau Building, in downtown Toronto, were the first 10 lanes, known as the Toronto Bowling Club.

The club was once described as

Fivepin bowling, invented by Candian Thomas F. Ryan, is keeping people warm during the cold winter months.

http://members.shaw.ca/fairhavenbowl/history_of_bowling.htm

resembling a southern plantation, with potted palm trees, ceiling fans, a string orchestra, a piano and an immense lunch counter. Ryan, insisting his establishment be a very elite and private club, catered only to the affluent carriage trade of Toronto society.

Tenpin being the game, the elite members began to overwhelm Ryan with complaints about the size and weight of the ball, declaring it far too heavy to throw. This led Ryan to experiment.

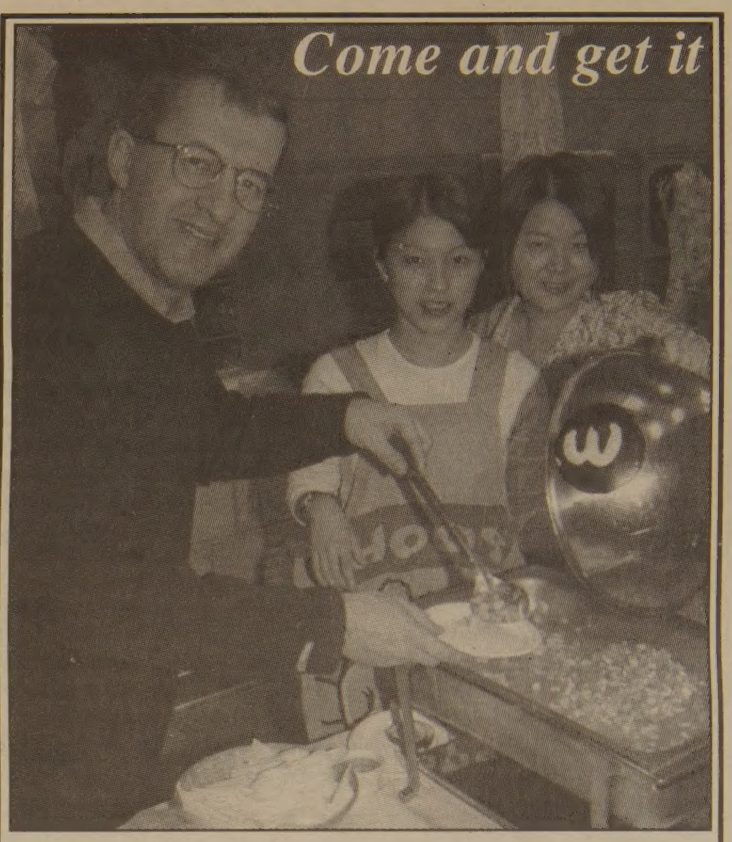
With the help of a wood lathe, Ryan's father, following Ryan's instructions, began to whittle down five of the larger pins to about 75 per cent of their original size.

Then, spacing the five pins equally on the tenpin triangle, Ryan took a handsized rubber ball and rolled it down the lane, thus creating the game of fivepin bowling.

Needless to say, Ryan was excited. Knowing it would catch on, he began to devise a bowling system not found in any other game. Naming and numbering the pins (from left to right) 4 - 2 - 1 - 3 - 5, he added a third frame. The current pin count of 2 - 3 - 5 - 3 - 2 was introduced in 1952 by Charlie Hill, then president of the Canadian Bowling Council.

Differing from tenpin scores, the score would now be 15 when all pins were knocked using all allotted balls for one frame. Borrowing the bonus scoring system for strikes and spares from the tenpin game, a perfect game of 12 consecutive strikes would total 450 points instead of 300.

Although many changes have since been made to the game, fivepin bowling continues to keep millions of Canadians happy and out of the cold each year.



Jos Nolle, director international education and development, helps to serve students during the fifth annual International Day at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls on March 13.
Photo by Ryan Sutherland

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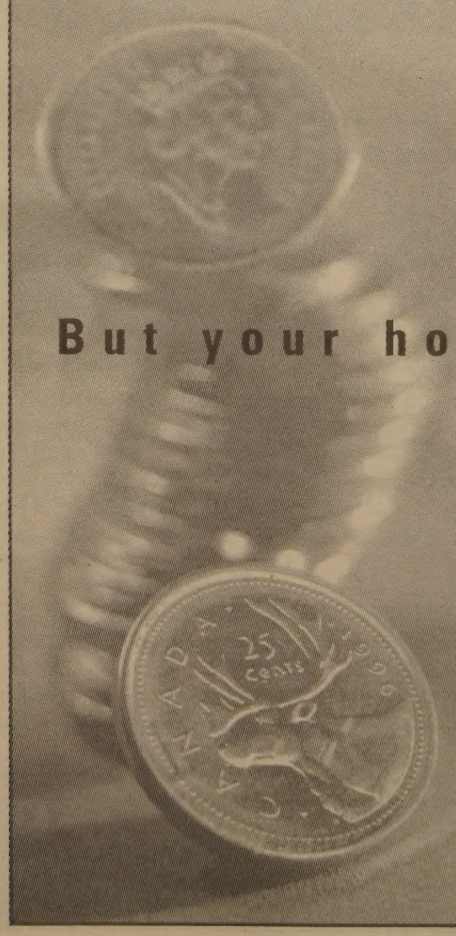

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Editorials

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Memories made in college 'last a lifetime'

Hands trembling, knees shaking and heart pumping.

OK, so maybe that's a bit extreme, but the first day of college can be nerve-racking.

As many of us approach the end of college life, we can't help but reflect on the first day of college and what the last year and a half has been like.

As we walked into that first class on the first day of college, it felt like high school all over again. Each one of us was looking around for a place to sit, afraid of being alone and appearing standoffish.

We were scanning faces, desperately hoping to fit in.

The days start to go by. Little by little we slowly met new people, made new friends and felt as if we were a part of something.

As the months went by, the workload got heavier, the days grew a little more intense and the bonds formed felt everlasting, until now.

We must come to grips with the realization that our classmates will go their separate ways. The connections made will one day come to an end. Maybe it won't be that extreme.

Sure there are ways to stay in touch: e-mail, telephone, the odd visit here and there.

Sadly, the inevitable will happen though. The phone calls will be less frequent, the e-mails too, and the visits will become non-existent.

Many of us say that we will stay in touch, and, at the time, we will truly mean it. When it comes down to it, people change, they go their separate ways, and bonds are easily broken.

With the end near, we're all trying to figure out what we're going to do with our lives. What is the next step? Some people are ready to move on; others feel they could stay here longer, as they aren't ready to leave their "safe place."

People will come in and out of your life and be nothing more than a distant memory.

It is those memories that will last a lifetime.

VICKI SWANTON

Graduation brings opportunity, plus change

Every year, students at Niagara College dedicate their time and efforts in pursuit of a common goal: the ability to pursue a career of their choice. Every year, students who have come from near and far, who have made and kept the friendship of their peers, must say goodbye and embark on a new goal: employment.

As this year comes to an end and we at *Niagara News* turn the newspaper over to the next generation of writers, we want to take this opportunity to extend congratulations and best wishes to the members of the Journalism-Print 2002 graduating class.

In many different ways, we have touched one another's lives, enriched one another's experiences and opened one another's eyes during the countless hours we spent in the newsroom together. After many long Wednesdays in production, the completion of numerous assignments and bringing 13 issues of the *Niagara News* to fruition, we have finally earned that goal, which seemed so distant and illusive at the beginning of the year: graduation.

Armed with the academic and practical skills to enter the workforce, we have the opportunity to spread knowledge and educate the uninformed, to end the misconstruing of fact to the misinformed and, ultimately, to open and change people's minds.

May we enjoy continued success in our placements and future employment. May we continue to rise to the standards of accomplishment that our predecessors have achieved. May we cross paths in the future, perhaps having the opportunity to work with one another once again.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." It can only be added, "Our lives now begin with the ability to make our voices heard."

ROCHELLE WHITE

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Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

NIAGARA COLLEGE
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Last Call

Student wishes classmates good luck

By KAREN WALKER
Column

Is it the end of March already?

That can only mean that my time at Niagara College is coming to an end.

As I sit back and remember the first day of classes and my own nervousness, I never thought I would get to this point.

In the two years I have lived in Welland, I've made many friends and memories.

The greatest experience was, in fact, the friendships formed with people. It's amazing that in a few months, we can form such close bonds with people that we didn't know existed two years ago.

Let us not forget the occasional overindulgences of certain beverages, when we tell ourselves, "never again," but we know that's a lie. Or how about the midnight runs for fast food we know we didn't need, but we couldn't resist the temptation?

Wait, I did come to college for an education, right?

Yes, and get one I did. I came here with no journalism experience, only the idea that I wanted to write. I was given the chance to do that and finally got the courage to let others read my work.

Thanks to the faculty of the Journalism-Print program, who helped all of us get to the place we are today. I appreciate the advice and confidence in our work to let us write freely.

Phyllis Barnatt, Gary Erb, Nancy Geddie, Andy Klapatiuk and Paul Dayboll have prepared us for our next journey into the real world. It's going to be scary, but we will make it.

I can't forget the countless hours we all spent in the newsroom on Wednesday nights, not only putting the newspaper together, but also becoming friends with classmates who can tolerate spending a nine-hour day with you.

Our program is only two years long, and it makes me sad to think that it took our class a year and a half to become close. The last few months have come and gone so quickly, it's hard to believe we are all going our separate ways.

I am waiting in anticipation for the day when I pick of a newspaper or magazine and see articles by writers who I went to school with. Good luck to everyone and congratulations on the success. We did it!

Listen to your heart during important matters

By JENNIFER PICKETT
Column

In this, my last year of college, I've come to accept the fact that almost everything they taught me in high school is wrong. That includes all the people who told me to listen to my head and ignore what my heart was telling me. They would say, "Don't let your feelings get in the way of logical thinking."

As I come to the end of my last year in college however, I find myself torn between whether I should do my field placement and try to start my life here in Ontario with my new friends and my parents, or return to Newfoundland, where I'll be with friends that I've had all my life and grandparents whom I lived with for 18 years.

Being a person who likes to have a plan for everything, I recognized this lack of resolution really bugged me. It was an important decision that may or may not affect the rest of my life.

After talking with several friends and family members, I realized that they would mostly talk about the money. Where would I make the most? Where would I find the better job?

Another few weeks of searching from one end of my brain to the other and I still didn't know what to do.

Finally, I realized that it's not brain searching that I need to do; it's soul searching.

For once, I decided to let my heart have a say in the matter. Don't get me wrong. A good job that pays a lot of money is great, but what good is it if you spend all your time wishing you were somewhere else?

I'm off to Newfoundland at the end of this month. My future might not turn out the way I planned but at least I can say I made the decision on my own and it's one that I won't regret.

My advice to everyone reading this is to listen to your head for the minor stuff in life but if you have to make an important decision that could affect the rest of your life just, give your heart a chance. You might like what it has to say.

Thinking more about my future in a sensible way

By ERIK O'BRIEN
Column

I sit writing, knowing my time here is almost complete and soon will no longer be.

Einstein thought time could be bent. Now with two weeks till field placement and only 20 days of that, it sure feels the last two years have been bent into what seems to me a month-long cycle.

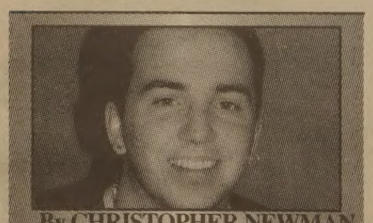
During that month the most lasting moments seem to be those fueled by the consumption of beer, cigarettes and other combustibles. The Journalism-Print Christmas parties, the night at the local pub, that afternoon, brown bag in hand, walking the hallways of the Welland campus and occasionally stepping outside to indulge in the many activities not permitted within public walls. What a blast!

Learning, I did some. I learned that underachieving doesn't give the satisfaction it used to, and that constant procrastination still leads to nothing but late assignments and frustrated moments.

It may be the nature of time to just speed its way through life, not giving you a second to realize that every day you come closer to full independence. The life you must make for yourself — although not becoming any clearer — is tearing into your every thought, confusing itself with the irresponsible, carefree attitude, so completely normal and well based in high school, where the world seemed, for the most part to take care of itself, asking nothing of you but rest.

Those days are long gone now. It's not that I worry myself to sleep at night, but I do think about the future in a sensible way, the only way: it is coming.

Student seeks career in music instead of journalism



By CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN
Column

I'm going to die. I'm going to die. I'm going to die.

As I get older, I find the only way I can keep myself going is to repeat that phrase over and over.

Sound strange? Well, it's really not.

As a college student, I have to come to terms with the fact that I came here because I wanted a job. As someone who has dreams of a life that a college education could never deliver, I also have to come to terms with the fact that I hate that I came here for a job.

When I was young, I had this idealistic vision that I could become whatever I wanted to be. My particular vision had me playing guitar in a band.

I wanted so badly to be a career musician that I begged mom and dad for a guitar and essentially threw away my social life to understand that instrument, and music in general, the best that I could. I was determined to do it.

Somewhere along the line, though, it fell apart. I was berated by high school teachers who told me I had to have a realistic vision of my future. I was told day in and day out that I would switch careers at least three times in my life, so I had better have an education that would get "the skills" I needed to get jobs. I was taught that money is what's important.

The worst thing is, I bought it.

I stopped learning how to become a better guitar player and started worrying about how I could make money playing guitar and what kind of job I could get that would give me lots of money, at the expense of my dream.

I learned a bunch of songs I never particularly cared for, borrowed my brother's public address system and can not-so-proudly say that my services as a singer/guitar player are worth $150 a night, minimum, to a bar owner, who couldn't care less if I have musical integrity.

Now I'm 22 and have been transformed by one simple notion: I'm going to die.

With this in mind, I've come to realize that it doesn't matter one bit if my Niagara College education gets me a job. It doesn't matter if I'll have financial security when I'm retiring. I can't stop the inevitability of change.

What do I do?

What I've decided to do is forget about everything else in this world that doesn't apply to the very moment I'm living in.

Of course, this isn't easy. It's hard not to worry about tomorrow or not regret those past mistakes, but, in the end, what's the point?

I never wanted money. I never wanted a job as a journalist. I wanted to play guitar or, if that failed completely, I wanted to write. This column is my testimonial that no matter where my life goes or what I may be forced to do, I will never let go of the moment again.

I am going to decide what is going to make me happy now and keep doing it until it doesn't make me happy anymore. I urge everyone to do the same.

This does not mean drop out of college. On the contrary, I have a passion for the field of public relations that, for some reason, goes beyond the financial benefits it provides, so I'm coming back to Niagara College to study it next year. The difference is, I'm doing it out of interest, not for monetary gain.

Of course, maybe to some people, money truly equals happiness. If you're that person, I say, go and make money. There is nothing wrong with that. Just don't let yourself think you've wasted your days pursuing something that never made you happy because you felt you needed to.

At the end of the day, the old saying "he with the most stuff wins" is a complete lie.

Nobody wins. Nobody loses. Everybody lives.

What's the point of living for mediocrity?

Journalists, including those in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, are taught that their reporting must be balanced, fair and as objective as possible. That rule must also exist for columns written by reporters. In columns, the feelings and opinions of reporters are welcome, but balance, fairness and objectivity must never be disregarded or treatedlightly. Our columns, which are clearly identified as such, do not reflect the opinions or feelings of the Niagara College administration or the management of the *Niagara News*. Columns reflect the opinion of only one person: the writer.

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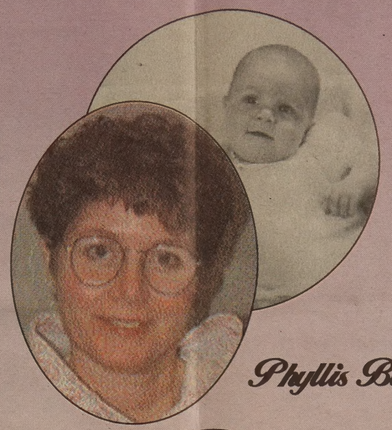

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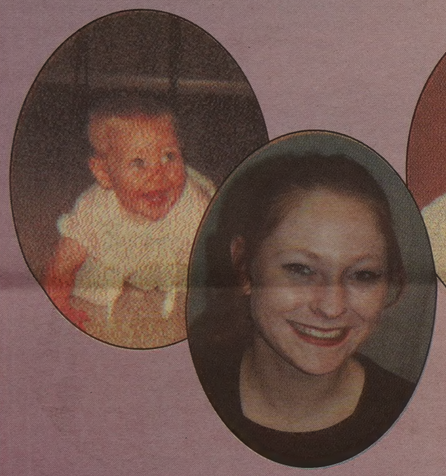

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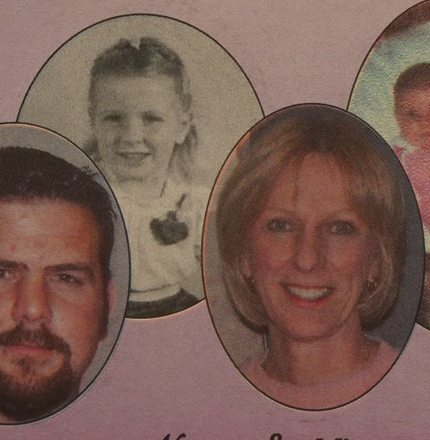

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Fashion Frenzy

Exotic dancing 'did change me a lot'

By WILLIAM HORWOOD JR.
Staff Writer

A first-year Niagara College student reflects on her time as an exotic dancer.

"Careful with the drugs. I didn't know too many dancers who didn't do drugs. It was a rarity. So many dancers make so much money but they have nothing to show for it. It just goes up their nose or whatever. I would also tell them not to let it eat their soul up because it can do that. It can do that real fast. You gotta remember who you are."

That's the advice Kyra Storm would offer to those contemplating a career in the exotic dancing business.

Storm, as she will be called for the purposes of this story, is a native of Niagara-on-the-Lake, living in St. Catharines. She has worked at the Sundowner, Seductions, Mints and both Private Eyes. She has seen a side of the industry few people think about or are aware of.

Storm, 24, started dancing just before she dropped out of Brock University, where she was majoring in theatre and minoring in psychology. She goes to Niagara College and is in a program at the Welland campus.

Though her experience was "overall negative" she may decide to start dancing again if she doesn't find a job soon. Her licence doesn't expire until the end of 2002, and she needs money.

On average, she made $200 a night, by being non-aggressive. That amount could be as much as $500 a night depending on the private dances. Dancers are hired on two types of pay: on schedule, which is hourly pay at minimum wage, or as a freelancer, which is whatever the dancer can make giving private dances or on tips. "On schedule is good if you don't like private dances."

Storm says her favourite part was being on stage.

"It toughens your skin. It's a very superficial business to be in. There are a lot of feelings of guilt involved — maybe not for everybody but there was for me."

"I knew I wanted to go back to school. I knew I had more to offer the world than that. I also knew that (dancing) wasn't going to be a permanent career. There are dancers that are in their 40s and it makes me sick."

Storm says that she wouldn't want to be in a position where she had kids and was still in the business. Lots of women were still dancing while pregnant, but kept drinking and doing drugs.

"They don't give a shit about anything except money."

Generally, the club owners aren't good to the women. They don't have respect for the dancers — the dancers aren't treated like people. They (the club owners) feel they have the right to put their hands on the dancers, and they are bad for not paying dancers for hours worked, says Storm.

Once, Storm says, an owner wouldn't pay her the $100 he owed her, so she went to his office and said she wasn't leaving until she got her money.

"He grabbed me and threw me against the wall. I smashed a beer bottle over his head."

It's hard to get protection from the government because wages are paid in cash.

"You're the only one looking after yourself, unless you have girl friends — fellow dancers. Sometimes there would be guys who would try and recruit girls. The guy would, like, be their pimp and basically he'd offer sort-of-protection for getting a certain percentage of whatever the girl made. But I was never interested in that."

Storm met a fellow dancer with whom she became a best friend. The friend ending up "stabbing" her in the back repeatedly; that was generally the type of people she met. Good people in the dancing business are few and far between, says Storm.

"She hurt me bad. I think she's evil. I think everybody has the potential to be good but the girls who end up dancing are lost souls."

The girls Storm danced with were jealous women, and if you didn't form alliances they were out to get you, she says. Storm recalls a time when all the dancers told the club owner to fire her or they would quit.

Storm first became interested in the business while laid off as a telemarketer, a job she hated. She met a dancer who told her about the dancing business and seemed like a decent person.

"I knew I liked dancing. I figured it would be a challenge for me, being an introverted person, to be able to do that."

In the beginning of her career it all seemed less "dark."

"I made more money because I was more positive."

Once Storm became a dancer her old friends stopped talking with her and she eventually lost touch with them. People have negative perceptions about dancers that they're stupid, dirty and that they are "sluts," says Storm.

Men's motives for going to strip clubs are to look at women as objects and not have to feel guilty. Men often harassed her, making Storm embittered towards men for a long time, she says. Her advice to men going to these clubs is to treat the women with respect because "you don't know if they're being real. (You) don't know her story and what's going on in her head and her heart."

On stage Storm tried to be as real as possible, but in a private dance it's different. "If a guy asks you if he's good looking and he isn't, you can't say that to him. I was being real because I was letting people into my head and heart. I don't know if that was a mistake."

After college Storm plans to get a job doing something that she loves and not have to feel guilty about. She says she wants to contribute something positive to the world.

If she could go back in time, would she choose the same path?

"I think I would because I like who I am today, and part of who I am today is because of my experiences that I've been though. It did change me a lot. It opened my eyes to a lot."

Dressed-up denim popular for Spring

By JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Snow's still falling but clothing stores are welcoming Spring with new warm-weather fashions.

Dressed-up denim is a must this Spring. Skirts, purses and jeans with embroidery, jewels, patches, fur and ruffles are the latest denim trend.

While Elle Magazine exhibits a decorated denim skirt by designer Anna Sui for $1,320, you can pick up cheaper versions of this style at stores like Le Chateau and Sirens, or get creative and jazz up denim you already own.

Wide-legged pants with cuffs graced the pages of Elle and Cosmopolitan this month. Look for deep colours like red and purple.

Another new trend for pants is vertical stripes in bright multi-colours to lighten up rainy days.

Suit jackets are worn alone or with tiny tops to add femininity to menswear-inspired pieces. Jackets can be worn with skirts or dresses.

Stores like Suzy Sheer, Smart Set and Garage Clothing are swamped with the latest trend in shirts, the peasant top. These are flowing tops that can be transparent, embroidered or adorned with flowers and ribbons. They portray a gypsy style.

Think ruffles. This girly trend is found on the bottom of dresses and sleeves of T-shirts. Garage Clothing helps make this style attainable with an affordable tank top with ruffled front.

Flowers are a design gracing all kinds of items. The bigger the flowers on tanks and skirts, the better.

Don't go for the miniskirt because knee length A-line skirts and floor-length skirts are where it's at in the pages of top fashion magazines this month.

Soft fabrics like silk and chiffon are good for any piece of clothing.

The Olympics may be over but designers are going for the gold. Gold shoes, purses and bracelets are up-to-the-minute for spring.

Accessories can make or break an outfit. They are a popular piece for the upcoming warmer months.

Designers Phoebe Stephens and Valentina Garavani create a 1960s look with crochet, macramé and patchwork on scarves and bags.

Oversized necklace charms and bracelets are great for updating any outfit. Super thick belts and long crochet belts look best.

The best colours for jewelry and hair accessories are deep blue.

Just a few of these new trends will update your wardrobe for Spring. Many can easily be reproduced at home with a little creativity.

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New Wave

Toronto-based rocker impresses music industry

By PETER GARNER
Staff Writer

Andy Stochansky is going places.

Stochansky, who grew up in and around Toronto, is making a buzz throughout North America with his unique mix of alt-country and sonic sounds.

Stochansky received rave reviews at the 2000 South by Southwest Festival in Texas.

"It was a total blessing," said Stochansky. "To have people respond in such a positive manner for doing something I love is amazing."

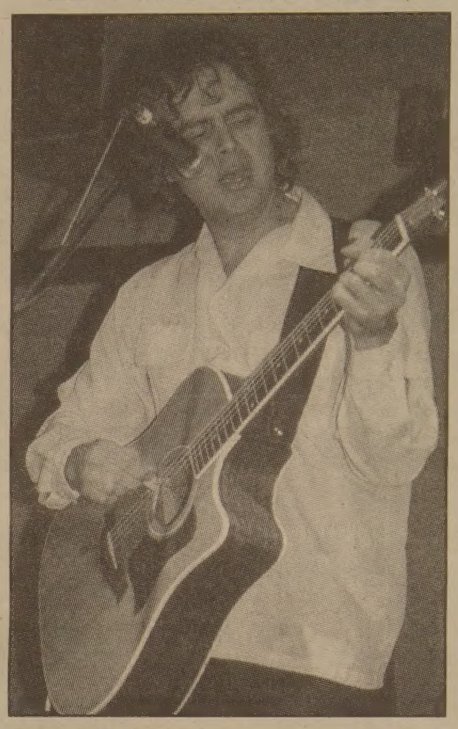
'I need to be around people that criticize me in a positive way. I auditioned so many people for the band. I had to keep in mind that these were people that I was going to be around for massive amounts of time.'

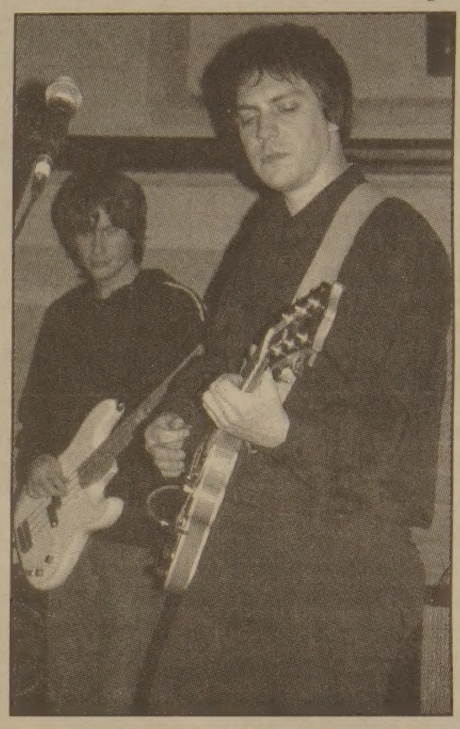
He has released two albums on independent labels. His latest, **Radio Fusebox**, received tremendous reviews throughout North America. Now Magazine named it as one of the 10 best albums of 1999.

Stochansky signed to RCA, a major label in the United States, this past summer. He plans to release his third album, **Everest**, in the summer.

"After I released **Radio Fusebox**, all the major labels were interested," he said, "but they didn't represent me. They were interested for all the wrong reasons.

For Everest, he wrote 25 to 30 songs, but ended up using 12.





From left, Andy Stochansky sings and plays a selection from his second album **Radio Fusebox** while his guitarist and bassist are hard at work.

Photo by Christina Colli

"Songwriting is a nine-to-five job for me," said Stochansky. "I don't just write when I feel moved. I write all the time. I am planning to write over 100 for the next album."

He said that being around a group of people that aren't "yes-men" is a must.

"I need to be around people that criticize me in a positive way," he said. "I auditioned so many people for the band. I had to keep in mind that these were people that I was going to be around for massive amounts of time."

Stochansky, who toured with singer/songwriter Ani Difranco for seven years, said he wants this project to be independent of anything he has done in the past.

"Don't get me wrong, I still speak with Ani and most of the other artists I have worked with in the past," he said, "but this is a totally different project. I don't want my past projects to help or hinder me in any way."

Stochansky identifies writer/singer Paul McCartney as a huge musical influence.

"The thing with McCartney is that he wrote so many songs when he was a teenager," he said. "I have to admire that."

Stochansky played After Hours on Feb. 19 as part of his college tour throughout southern Ontario.

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International Front

College's program offerings grow in China

By MITO TOGAWA
Staff Writer

Niagara College's program offerings are active and growing in Shanghai, China.

The college's English as a Second Language (ESL) program started in September last year in the Shanghai Commercial School (SCS).

"It's going very well," said Kyla Pennie, international project specialist in the International Education and Development department here.

The department sent an ESL teacher, Cathy Gillis, to Shanghai for 10 days in February to observe the new branch of the ESL program.

The ESL program at SCS will welcome new students in September this year, doubling the size of the program.

As a result of having more students in the program, Niagara College is planning to send one more ESL teacher from Canada. Niagara College ESL teachers Ross Brooks and Rachel Batchilder have been teaching at SCS since the program started.

In addition, the college will send two more staff to SCS as an ESL co-ordinator and an assistant co-ordinator in September 2003. The two new staff will be trained and be prepared at the ESL program here in July and August next year.

Additional offerings in Shanghai from Niagara College will be the Computer Programmer program, which is a post-secondary program, at another high school called Shanghai Commercial Polytechnics (SCP) in September this year.

"The Chinese government has recently approved this joint venture," said Leo Tiberi, director of the Communication and Information Technology division, about the new development. "This is a unique opportunity to extend a high quality Niagara College program to China."

Working closely with faculty and administrators from SCP, "We will literally double our expertise and share experiences," he added.

Niagara faculty will also have the opportunity to visit and teach at SCP.

Tiberi and Pennie will make a one-week visit at SCP in April.

"This visit is a follow-up to a visit last spring by my counterparts from SCP. I will be visiting the school, touring the labs, meeting with faculty and administrators, and will start to work through the logistics, process and details associated with running a two-year computer programmer program from opposite ends of the world. We have a lot of detail to go over in a short period of time," said Tiberi.

Niagara College will be enrolling about 180 Shanghai students, by the time the ESL program at SCS starts its new academic year in September. The Computer Programmer program begins at SCP around the same time.

International department connects with world to get students

By MISATO ARAI
Staff Writer

Betty Ann Chandler, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher here, went to Taiwan on Feb. 26 to March 5 for an Education Fair.

College representatives attend the fair every year wherever it's held, to introduce and explain regular programs and the ESL program.

Chandler says 64 schools' representatives from all across Canada attended the fair. She went to Taipei, the capital city of Taiwan, and Kaohsiung, in the southern part of Taiwan.

She says the fair was advertised on the radio, in newspapers, on a bus with an advertisement, and on the Web site, Oh Canada, a company that recruits students wanting to study in Canada.

Niagara College paid the company for the advertisement.

One of the college's ESL students, Tien-Ling Liu, 25, of Taipei, helped Chandler in that city.

Liu went to Taipei on Feb. 25 during his March break.

Chandler says, "I was very well taken care of by Alex (Liu's English name). He met me at the airport with his parents with a dozen white roses and friends of his parents came, and they brought me presents. So I was very badly spoiled at the airport, because taxi drivers don't do that."

She says Liu drove her to her hotel. "He was extremely helpful."

There were two days of the fair in Taipei, and Liu went to both as an interpreter.

Chandler says she met a little boy at the fair. "His parents had come to the fair because they are thinking ahead for their seven-year-old son. So I spent quite a long time talking with them, just because he was a cute little boy."

Chandler also spoke to a 75-year-old man, saying, "Ni hao," meaning "Hello." She says she tried to speak in Chinese.

"Supposedly in my mind, (I said) 'Nice to meet you,' and he looked at me like, 'What did you say?' So, I tried to repeat more clearly but he still didn't understand. So, I truly understand how international students feel when they try to say something, people say, 'What? Pardon? Huh?'"

Chandler says the "serious students" ranged in age from 17 to 30 years old.

Each school had its booth, and Chandler says she talked to people in a group, or one on one.

She says she spoke to two mothers and their daughters who are planning to come to Niagara College.

"They want me to be their homestay mother, because we explained our homestay program as well."

Liu came back to Canada on March 17, and says they will come to Canada in July.

After two days in Taipei, Chandler went to Kaohsiung.

In Kaohsiung, another student who graduated from the college's ESL program helped Chandler.

She says she recommended students take one term in ESL, even if they can speak English, as a way of getting used to the college's atmosphere.

Besides the fair, Chandler visited recruiting agencies to give them updated information about the college.

Though she says she doesn't know how many people came to the fair in Taipei and Kaohsiung, "Our booth was very, very busy. We saw between 200 to 300 students, mostly on Saturday and Sunday."

Chandler says the college is still accepting applications for May.

It wasn't all work for Chandler during her time overseas. Her birthday was on March 4. Liu, his family and their friends took her out to a seafood restaurant where she tasted Taiwanese cuisine. She says, "It was just fabulous."

She says she liked noodles and the drink called frog eggs tea, or bubble tea. The tea, which looks like frog eggs, is semi sweet and refreshing, she says.

Chandler says she didn't like "stinky Dofu" (a kind of Tofu) because she couldn't stand the smell.

It was the first time for her to visit Taiwan. "It was an exciting time, because they were having a lantern festival, and in fact, Kaohsuiung had a bigger festival, I think, than Taipei. They had a river called Love River, and they had beautiful lanterns all along the river that reflected on the water."

Shown above, at an education fair in Taipei, at far left and far right, are two potential students who hope to come to Niagara College in July. Centre is Betty Ann Chandler, English as a Second Language teacher, flanked by the students' mothers.

Submitted photo

She says it was a wonderful time to celebrate the end of Chinese New Year.

There were other college officials also on recruitment missions. Manager of International Student Recruitment and Services Sean Coote went to India for 13 days for business recruitment.

He visited five cities doing presentations for those who are interested in studying at Niagara College in September.

He says there are companies in India associated with Niagara College, and they set it up for the college.

Coote says he described the college, the programs and the process of coming to Canada.

He says he saw an average of 100 to 250 students during his presentations.

"Anyone who would be interested to study here would speak English fine."

India is the number 1 country from which the college has the most students, Coote says. There are 89 students from India, and the second largest number is China, with 62.

"The biggest difference from China is that all of those students are in post-graduate or undergraduate programs. None of them are in ESL." For China, half the students are in ESL and other half are in regular courses, says Coote.

Though there are some parts of India from which applicants may be required to take the ESL program, he says, "we don't recruit so much from those parts." He says there are 13 to 15 official languages in India, and English is the common language.

Most "developed" people, middle and higher financial class people who go to school, start taking English early, "most of them from Grade 1," Coote says.

Though the college has done presentations in India a few times, this was the first trip for Coote.

"It's very interesting. It's similar to China. My first question when I went to China was how do you keep a billion people busy? That was one of the questions I had in my mind. One billion people, that's a lot of people. How do you keep them busy and active, and I asked myself the same questions when I went to India. 'How do you keep a billion people busy?' and, it's interesting to see the way that they conduct their work. Everything was very manual, and very labourious, where we automate many things."

The five cities Coote visited were Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Mumbai (Bombay) and Kolkata (Calcutta).

Every city was different in public hygiene or traffic density, says Coote.

He says Delhi is the biggest city of the five cities, with a population of 12 million to 14 million.

While in India, Coote says he used a three-wheeled vehicle called a rickshaw as one of his transportation means.

Coote says he didn't have much private time. "I went to a market one night, but that was all. Like a night market, looking for things and I bought a couple of things for my family."

The weather in India was 15 to 20 degrees Centigrade, he says.

People were "very nice, very courteous, very caring, very helpful. Very peaceful country."

However, he says some fighting is going on between Hindus and Muslims in Ahmedabad. He left the city, and about five days later, the fighting started.

"I think we will have to increase the number of students from India next year."

He says he is expecting another 70 to 80 students from India in September.

Bad Religion playing classic punk rock on tour

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

More than 20 years performing together and 12 albums later, Bad Religion is still playing its classic punk rock songs.

Bad Religion made a stop in Toronto, at the Kool Haus on March 16, to play a sold out show. Guitarist Greg Hetson took time out of a busy schedule to sit and talk to the *Niagara News*.

"So far it's been great," said guitarist Greg Hetson, referring to Bad Religion's tour with Less Than Jake and Hot Water Music. The band is touring in support of its new album, **The Process of Belief**, which hit store shelves in February.

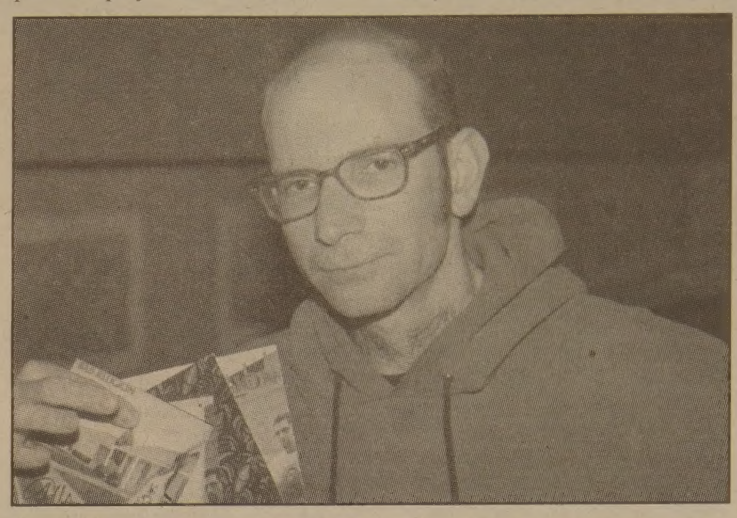
Band songwriters Greg Graffin and guitarist Brett Gurewitz have reunited to co-write the latest release.

The album has re-launched the band to the front of the punk scene. The Los Angeles-based band combines energetic guitar riffs of classic punk with an array of vocal harmonies and steady pounding drums, making **The Process of Belief** one of the most talked-about new releases.

Bad Religion was formed by band members Graffin, Gurewitz, and bassist Jay Bentley. The band began practicing in a small garage and playing live shows in the Los Angeles area. Hetson reflected on the evolution of the punk scene in Los Angeles.

"Well, when I first started going to shows they were very small. A big show then was 300 to 500 people and there were very few places to play, and maybe one or two record stores that had a good punk rock selection."

"It got more popular in the mid-'80s. It (the punk scene) got really huge when there were shows with 3,000 to 5,000 people for some of the bigger bands. There were a lot of great labels putting out good stuff. Then all these bands came in and they had a punk gang mentality and there were a lot of fights and slowly the scene deteriorated. It was too violent and there was no place to play. Some of the bands turned to metal and punk rock was pretty much sent back to underground places until really the late '80s ... 1989 or 1990 when it started going again."



Greg Hetson, guitarist for Bad Religion, holds up some autographed CD covers he signed for a lucky fan.

Photo by Matt Watling

For the first few years of Bad Religion's history, during the breakthrough years for punk rock, signing a record deal proved to be a challenge. When no major record label would sign the band, Gurewitz decided to start his own record label. Known by punk fans around the world, Epitaph Records is the creation of Gurewitz, and has been a success. The multi-million dollar label is a proud supporter of bands like Rancid and NOFX and has evolved into the biggest punk rock label in the world.

In 1986 Gurewitz left the band to pursue a chance to open a small recording studio in Hollywood, Calif., called Westbeach. His replacement was Greg Hetson, formerly a member of the Circle Jerks. Gurewitz played on and off with the band, before rejoining Bad Religion to record the album **Suffer** in 1987. After the release of **Suffer**, Bad Religion was on a roll, recording and releasing almost one album a year, gaining international respect and limited air play for the song Infected.

The year 1993 saw yet another change for the band. Bad Religion signed a deal with Atlantic Records. Hard times would follow. The punk scene was finally hitting its peak, forcing Gurewitz to leave the band, dedicating his time and energy to the expansion of his record label. Brian Baker, of Minor Threat, was his replacement. For Gurewitz these times were hard. He found himself in a battle with a drug addiction, eventually serving jail time for his actions.

With Gurewitz struggling to make a full recovery, Graffin and the rest of Bad Religion owed Atlantic Records one more album. After the completion of the album, Gurewitz was again asked to join Bad Religion. Accepting the offer, Gurewitz asked Bad Religion to come back to Epitaph Records.

"It's not different (referring to the comparison of writing for a major record label versus writing music for Epitaph). The difference is with the people who work with the labels. We made it clear you got to give us artistic control over everything and don't try and force us to do anything because we're not going to sign the deal. It's not going to work out. There was never any pressure from that. The song writing the band does is better but we have to make albums in the concept of making Bad Religion punk rock albums. If we try to expand too much we probably suck at doing it and all the fans would hate us."

"It's good to have Brett back because with Brett back and writing songs there is a little bit of rivalry between Greg (Graffin) and Brett. They work well together and they will work well trying to one-up each other on writing good songs," said Hetson.

Bad Religion returned to the Westbeach Studios, along with drummer Brooks Wackerman, who replaced the former drummer who left because of a shoulder problem. Joining Wackerman were Graffin, Gurewitz, Bentley, Hetson and Baker, who all worked together to record **The Process of Belief.**

"With Brooks there is a little bit of a different style than Bobby's (the former drummer), but they are both excellent drummers. We're lucky we could get somebody to come right in," added Hetson. When asked about the response of the fans and media to **The Process of Belief**, Hetson said, "It's been the best response ... maybe ever." He added that the band's previous show in Montreal attracted about 6,500 fans.

Fans may not get to see the whole band. Gurewitz has only been playing selected shows on the recent tour. "It's much more fun, more rewarding probably running the world's largest independent indy record company than being on tour," said a laughing Hetson.

International success has followed the band. Bad Religion will be touring Europe after finishing the North America leg of the tour.

"It seems that the people outside of the country where English is not their native language, really have more of a grasp of the lyrical content than the people that speak English. For some reason I don't know why, they seem in tune with the lyrics a lot more than North America or England."

After returning from Europe, Bad Religion will be back on tour again, this time co-headlining the Vans Warped Tour with fellow Epitaph artists NOFX. No dates for the concert have been announced so far.

"Fast, aggressive punk rock. A little bit ... It's melodic, good vocal harmonies, but still aggressive," said Hetson, summing up a typical Bad Religion concert. Expect "30 to 50 songs covering all eras of Bad Religion."

Hetson said the message he thinks Bad Religion's music best displays is, "to think things out. That's pretty much it. The individual thinks for themselves."

Despite topping the charts, Morissette's Under Rug Swept no Jagged Little Pill

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

Alanis Morissette's latest, **Under Rug Swept** (Maverick), is not what listeners may expect. However, she should still be commended for her bold lyrics and brutal honesty.

Released Feb. 26 and running just over 50 minutes, the queen of estrogen rock trades pills for new-age therapy, and is still topping the charts.

The album was written and produced by Morissette, a change from her last two albums. **Under Rug Swept** is well produced. The lineup includes guest bassists Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers), Dean DeLeo (Stone Temple Pilots) and former Jane's Addiction member Eric Avery.

Like it or not, Morissette knows how to write a pop song.

She may never again reach the standards set by 1995's **Jagged Little Pill**, but I just can't seem to hate this album completely.

With blatant honesty that is lacking in so many other female artists, who else would write so many ex-boyfriend bashing ballads? *Hands Clean*, the third track on the album, is a self-confessed recollection of her experience as a music scene Lolita.

Most of the songs aren't outstanding (I haven't heard so many electric drum beats since her pop queen days in the early '90s, yet the lyrics and feminine angst that critics and fans alike love her for remain.

Under Rug Swept probably won't make my Top 10 list, but I give her credit for surpassing most other female artists in her genre.

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Speakers' Corner

Columnist wants marijuana legalized

By ERIK O'BRIEN
Column

Created to eliminate undesirables from the labour pool, outdated legislation banning the recreational use of marijuana mocks the constitutional right of every Canadian.

Let us first review where this legislation came from.

The year is 1871, and along with the discovery of gold by the Fraser River in British Columbia, 17,000 Chinese labourers are brought into the country by the Onderdonk Construction Co. Thirty years later, these labourers now out of work, large shanty towns of opium-using Chinese are left scattered about.

In 1907, William Lyon Mackenzie King, then deputy minister of labour, was sent by the federal government to investigate and settle Chinese property damage claims. Discovering opium use among the Chinese population, Mackenzie King decides that the only way to eliminate civil unrest was to eliminate the Chinese. To do that, he submitted a report titled The Need for the Suppression of Opium Traffic in Canada.

The federal government creates the Opium Narcotic Act in 1908, prohibiting the import, sale, and manufacture of opiates for non-medical use. Mackenzie King creates the basis for all other Canadian legislation dealing with the use of illicit drugs to this day. The fact that this act was created for the sole purpose of eliminating an undesirable element from the labour pool is appalling.

Using this as an example, it is not so far-fetched to think the Canadian government may ban professional sports, to eliminate the loud, beer-guzzling party animals from the workforce.

The act, renamed the Opium and Drug Act in 1911, and reworked a few times to enact new legislation and expand its applicable drug list, continues to prohibit marijuana for recreational purpose.

None are leaving the country because they can't legally smoke pot, so why does prohibition continue?

The cause may be as simple as regulation.

The fact that there is no regulating marijuana legislation means such legislation must be created. Although the Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a case arguing that the criminalizing of marijuana is unconstitutional, for the drug poses no significant health risks, there has been no decision to date. Regulating legislation has not even begun to be discussed.

If the country took the path of the Netherlands and decriminalized marijuana, there would be no need for the complex legislation, says the Marijuana Party of Canada, a political party dedicated to legalising the drug.

The fact that prohibition only increases usage has been well documented.

An American study, prepared for the MI: Institute of Social Research, has found that the removal of criminal penalties for marijuana possession in several states has had virtually no effect either on the marijuana use or on related attitudes among young people.

Another study, conducted by the University of New York, compared reported usage rates among young people in the United States and the Netherlands. The study found uses to have dropped dramatically in the Netherlands since the drug's decriminalization there.

The government of the Netherlands has, since 1976, officially tolerated the cultivation, sale and possession of small amounts of marijuana. Though the drug is still technically illegal, a policy of prosecutorial discretion has permitted more than 1,000 marijuana "coffee shops" to operate.

Chuck Thomas, of the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project, says the group is "envious of Canadians having the luxury of complaining about the minutiae of the program," adding that it "looks like a reasonable system."

It may look reasonable to an American with no legislation allowing medical use, but to me it remains clearly wrong.

The fact that liquor and cigarettes contribute to a high human mortality rate, yet remain legal, is quite confusing and contradictory.

Why allow the consumption of a substance known to cause death, and not allow simple plant matter, with no significant health risks, to be consumed is a question to which I demand an answer.

TV advertisements, gimmicks for lazy people

By VICKI SWANTON
Column

Have we as a society become so vain and obsessed about our looks that we have to start buying our appearance from television?

It seems as though every time you turn on the TV these days, you either see a commercial about skin cream, makeup, or the most common "here's how to be thin" weight loss.

OK, so I can live with the skin creams, as they can "take years off your face," and the makeup ads aren't too bad either.

Enough with these weight loss advertisements though.

First, there was Suzanne Sommers, with her famous Thighmaster, that costs about $25 plus shipping and handling, when all it is, is a spring with two pieces of rubber attached to it. It was designed to exercise the muscles in your upper thighs and your buttocks.

You could have saved yourself $30 by running down your block or taking your dog for a walk.

Next came the Ab Roller. Price: $20 at any Zellers or Wal-Mart.

It was designed to tighten stomach muscles to give that desired "washboard stomach" look.

Here's a cheap idea: lie down on the floor, bend your knees, put your hands behind your head and lift up.

The newest wonderful product on the market is the Ab Tronic.

Like the Ab Roller, it is designed to work your abs. Oh, but wait. It is more versatile than that. It also can be used on your legs, arms, as well as your buttocks — all for the low, low price of $59.95 plus shipping and handling. Sounds like a good deal, eh?

I'm not going to pretend I haven't looked at some of these ads and wished I had a body like some of their models, but the bottom line (no pun intended) is that most people who buy these products end up using them for about a week. Then the items collect dust on the floor until the next time the hopeful buyer has a burst of energy.

Do yourself a favour. If you want to lose weight and stay in shape, play baseball or soccer with some friends. That way you can get your exercise, have fun and save yourself $100.

Here are some pointers to end a relationship

By MIKE VAN KOOTEN
Column

A question every guy has to ask himself at one point or another is how do you break it off with your girlfriend?

There are a few options when attempting this dreaded task.

If she was never that great and you never really cared about her, you can always take the cruel path. Give her a note saying this: "Roses are red, violets are blue, garbage is dumped, and so are you." It's blunt, but leaves no room for follow-up phone calls.

If you thought she was decent and you remotely cared about her, don't be so mean, because we all know that women have easy access to revenge. It can be frustrating when someone is taking revenge on you with some other guy.

There is a way to avoid this problem. If you blame the decline of the relationship on something other than yourself, you have passed on the responsibility, vengeance can not be aimed at you and trashy tactics will be avoided.

If you truly enjoy the company of this woman, but realize it's time to move on, there are entirely different steps to be taken. Someone you once really liked can forever be hard to avoid, but if you are completely sure it's over, be mean. You will probably be getting back together at some point, but this way it will keep her thinking about you until that point.

As the annoying song once said, "breaking up is hard to do," so follow the basic rules. 1. Never make plans too far in advance, usually no more than two weeks. 2. Always remember that no matter whom she's with after you, you had her first and the other guy hates you more. 3. Don't be a pack-rat. Staying friends is as pointless as the Royal Family and twice as irritating.

CORRECTION

In the March 15, 2002 edition of the *Niagara News* (Vol. 32, Issue 12) on page 13 information was omitted in the report headlined "Schizophrenia affects one in 100 people." It should have included the fact the 2001 film A Beautiful Mind won four Golden Globe Awards.

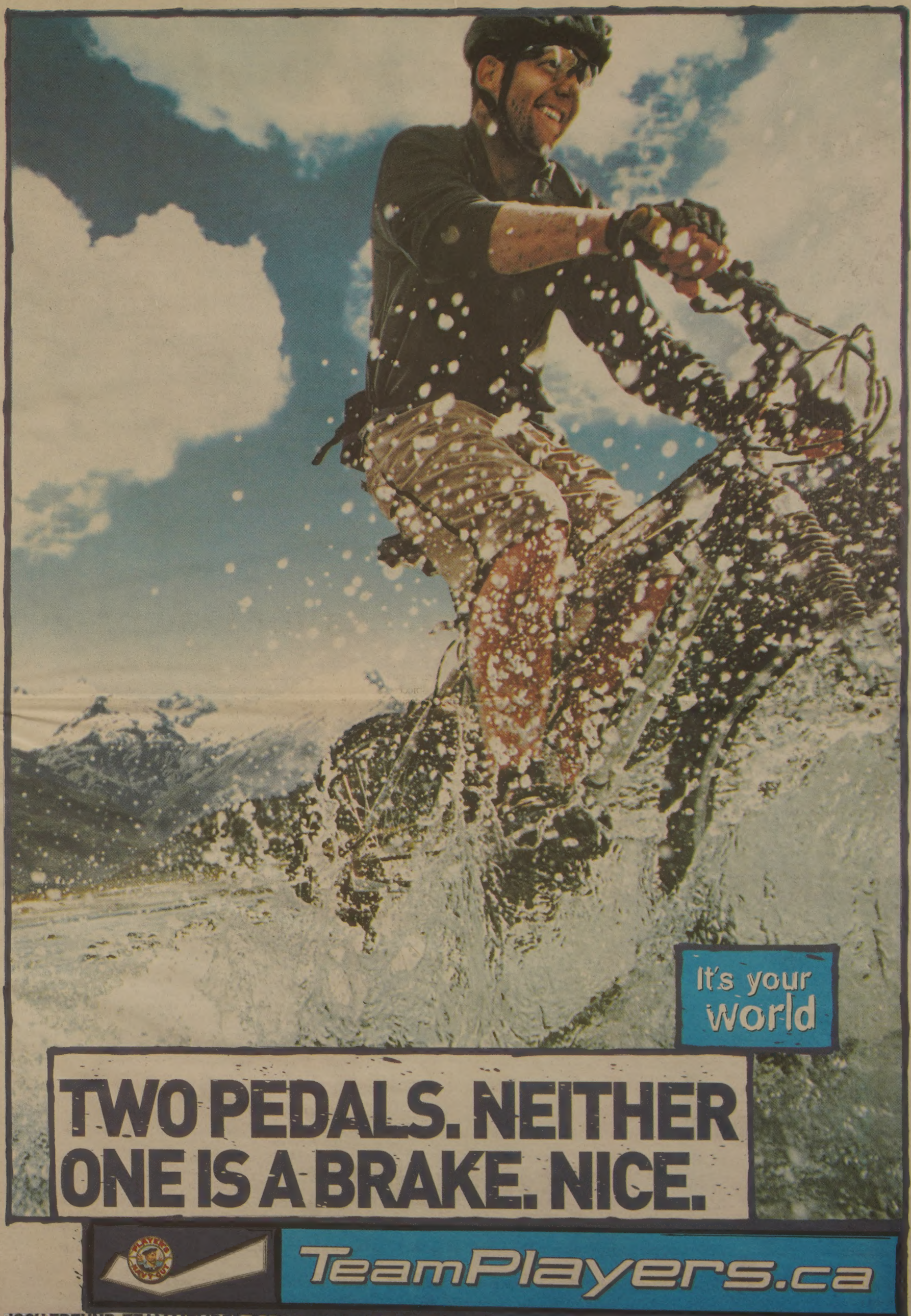
On page 17, in the report headlined "Tuque Tuesday raises $20,107.13" it should have included at the end the following sentence: The Welland Minor Hockey Association provides an annual $200 scholarship to the second-year sales student with the highest grade point average in their first year. In the same article, Leah Tallman's name was spelled incorrectly. There were three other students involved in the top-selling sales group. They are: Mike Cameron, Lindsay Schrock and Ricki-Leigh Nadon.

On page 18, in the report headlined "Magazine work "awesome learning experience" Area 51 in Toronto should be Area: One.

Also, Ryan McLaughlin's responsibilities include writing copy from press releases, and making sure suppliers see all of the new products available.

It is the policy of the *Niagara News* to correct errors of fact. We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

Journalists, including those in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, are taught that their reporting must be balanced, fair and as objective as possible. That rule must also exist for columns written by reporters. In columns, the feelings and opinions of reporters are welcome, but balance, fairness and objectivity must never be disregarded or treated lightly. Our columns, which are clearly identified as such, do not reflect the opinions or feelings of the Niagara College administration or the management of the *Niagara News*. Columns reflect the opinion of only one person: the writer.



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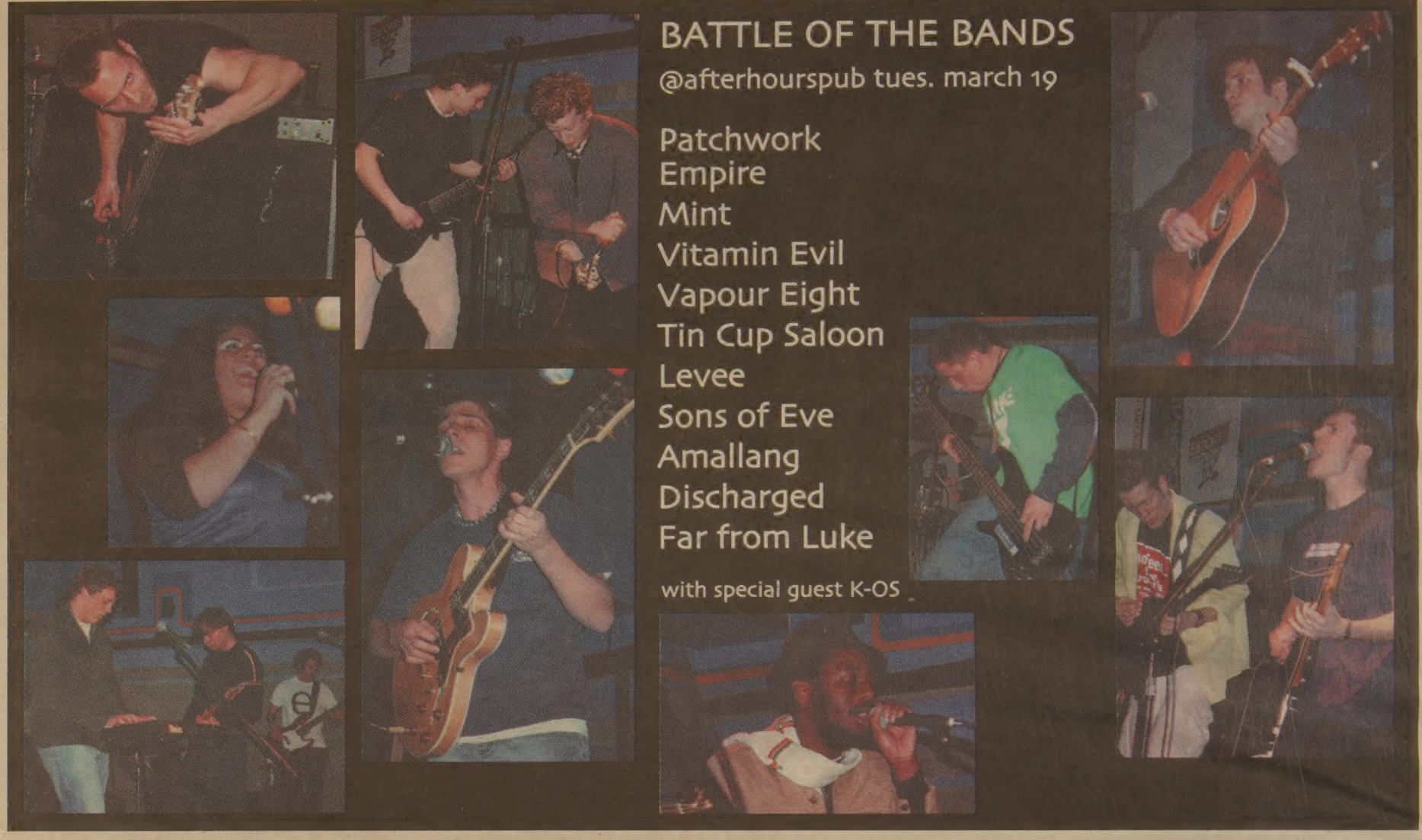

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